

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-26 remain in this application. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Mendez for meeting with them on August 1, 2007 (“Interview”). As is set forth in the Interview Summary, “It was agreed that the claim language as it stands overcomes the pending rejection of claim 1.”

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,935,598) in view of Joshi (US Patent No. 6,775,570), Muller et al. (US Patent No. 5,928,185), and Phipps (US Patent No. 6,004,309), and further in view of Ledger et al. (US Patent No. 5,624,415), Phipps (US Patent No. 6,289,241), Crawford et al (US2002/183685), or EP 0337642 . See Pages 3-5 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree as set forth in the previous amendment submitted on December 18, 2006 and in the Interview. As set forth above, during the Interview, “It was agreed that the claim language as it stands overcomes the pending rejection of claim 1.”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection under 25 USC 103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned application is now clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the above remarks and an early Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney at the below-listed number.

Serial No. 10/609,727

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 10-0750/J&J5043NP/WEM.

Applicants further respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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